



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
NOVATO, CA 94949
TELEPHONE: (415) 506-0234
FAX: (415) 506-0238
E-MAIL: accjc@accjc.org
www.accjc.org

Chairperson
SHERRILL L. AMADOR
Public Member

Vice Chairperson
STEVEN KINSELLA
Administration

President
BARBARA A. BENO

Vice President
SUSAN B. CLIFFORD

Vice President
KRISTA JOHNS

Vice President
GARMAN JACK POND

Associate Vice President
JOHN NIXON

Associate Vice President
NORVAL WELLSFRY

July 3, 2013

Dr. Lori Gaskin
Superintendent/President
Santa Barbara City College
721 Cliff Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Dear President Gaskin:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 5-7, 2013, reviewed the Special Report submitted by Santa Barbara City College, the Special Evaluation Team Report, and the presentation by college representatives at the Commission meeting. The purpose of this review was to evaluate evidence that the College has corrected the Standards' violations noted in the 2011 investigative report (as included in the January 31, 2012 Commission action letter) and evidence that the College has adequately addressed the three Commission Recommendations, resolved the deficiencies, and now meets the Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

The Commission took action to remove Warning and require Santa Barbara City College to submit a Follow-Up Report by **March 15, 2014** on full and sustained resolution of Commission Recommendations 1-3 as noted below. The Report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.¹

Commission Recommendation 1: In order to meet Accreditation Standards, the Board of Trustees should receive additional and topic-specific training from "outside experts" on the appropriate roles of the Board and Superintendent/President, and the requirements of Standard IV. This training should be agendaized and occur at a public meeting. The Board should further demonstrate compliance with these roles and responsibilities in its processes for Board evaluation and the Superintendent/President's evaluation. (Standard IV.B.1.d, g and j)

Commission Recommendation 2: In order to meet Accreditation Standards, the Board should revise its code of ethics policy to align with Accreditation Standards and policies (and the legal requirements of the board), identify a procedure, and the person(s) responsible for enforcement of the policy. The Board should also rectify its own behavior to comply. (Standard IV.B.1.h)

Dr. Lori Gaskin
Santa Barbara City College
July 3, 2013

Commission Recommendation 3: In order to meet Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards, the Board of Trustees should re-direct its focus to creating an environment for empowerment, innovation, and institutional excellence. Through established governance structures, processes, and practices, the Board should work with administrators, faculty, staff, and students for the good of the institution. The Board should focus its work toward ensuring that it works in a collegial manner to support the accomplishment of the college mission and improvement of student learning programs and services. (Eligibility Requirements 3, 4, and 21; Standards IV.A.1; IV.A.2.a and b; IV.A.3; IV.A.4; IV.A.5; IV.B.1; IV.B.1.a, b, e and j; and IV.B.2.a through e)

The Special Report and the Special Evaluation Team Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. The Commission requires that you give the Reports and this action letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your College Report. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the Special Report and this Commission action letter be made available to students and the public by placing a copy on the College website. *Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no farther than one click from the institution's home page.*

The next comprehensive evaluation of Santa Barbara City College will occur in **fall 2015**.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational quality and students' success. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness, and educational quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D
President

BAB/tl

cc: Mr. Robert Else, Accreditation Liaison Officer
President, Board of Trustees, Santa Barbara Community College District

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission. The Guidelines contain the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. The Guidelines are available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: (<http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>).